

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.495]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

#### William A. Gearon Photograph Collection

*Abstract:* Original photographs taken by photographer William A. Gearon of the damage done to St. Louis residences and other buildings after the September 29, 1927 tornado.

*Extent:* 33 Images

*Physical Description:* Glass plate negatives

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Vault

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* JPG and TIF

*Access Restrictions:* Originals restricted to staff only due to fragility; special permission required

*Publication Restrictions:* None

*Preferred Citation:* [Item description], [date]; *William A. Gearon Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.495; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Deed of Gift; Accession #2019-0073

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 01/28/2019. Updated by EW on 01/06/2021, 03/26/2021 and 04/21/2021.

### BIOGRAPHICAL & HISTORICAL INFORMATION

On September 29, 1927, a violent tornado hit the City of St. Louis, Missouri. Over 70 lives were lost, hundreds others injured and hundreds of properties damaged beyond repair. This photograph collection is made up of original images taken by photographer William Anthony Gearon (1882-1964) who at the time was living at 7743 Dale Avenue in Richmond Heights, a suburb of St. Louis.

### ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

## Related Collections

MS264 Robert S. Wiley Collection

MS396 Big Piney Tornado Photograph Collection

MS468 Ozark National Scenic Riverways Photograph Collection

Missouri Disasters, 1785-Present on Missouri Digital Heritage:

[https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=disasters](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=disasters)

## Additional External Resources

The State Historical Society of Missouri maintains digital copies of these images as well as five others in their Glennon J. Kullman Photograph Collection, #P0253.

The Archives' Missouri Disasters 1785-Present Collection on Missouri Digital Heritage:

[https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=disasters](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=disasters).

British Pathé film posted to YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZci73shofE&app=desktop#menu>.

St. Louis Public Library 1927 Tornado Collection: [http://tornados.slpl.org/1927\\_tornado.html](http://tornados.slpl.org/1927_tornado.html).

## TORNADO PHOTOGRAPHS, 1927

*Extent:* 33 Glass Plates

*Arrangement:* Original order maintained

### Scope and Content

Thirty-three 5.5"x3.25" glass plate negatives depicting damage to structures in St. Louis caused by the September 29, 1927 tornado. Photographs were taken by William A. Gearon. The photographs have been digitized and placed on the Z Drive as well as on Manuscript DVD #8 in Reference. Selected images are also on Flickr.

### Container List

Location	Barcode	Box	Image	Contents
	0004791397	231	1	4300 block of Laclede Avenue
	0004791397	231	2	3900 Page Boulevard
	0004791397	231	3	Lindell Boulevard; Cathedral in background
	0004791397	231	4	4000 block of West Belle Place
	0004791397	231	5	Prairie Avenue Flats
	0004791397	231	6	Auto Club of Missouri, (4130 Olive Street?)
	0004791397	231	7	4036 West Belle Place
	0004791397	231	8	4100 block of Olive Street
	0004791397	231	9	4100 Cote Brilliante Avenue
	0004791397	231	10	3967 West Belle Place
	0004791397	231	11	Corner of Cook Avenue and Jones Street
	0004791397	231	12	[address not provided]
	0004791397	231	13	Corner of Maryland Avenue and Whittier Street
	0004791397	231	14	4100 Westminster Place
	0004791397	231	15	4042 Finney Avenue
	0004791397	231	16	4000 block of Enright Avenue
	0004791397	231	17	3900 Cook Avenue
	0004791397	231	18	Columbia School, 2750 Garrison Avenue
	0004791397	231	19	4000 block of Enright Avenue
	0004791397	231	20	3941 Page Boulevard
	0004791397	231	21	4200 block of McPherson Avenue
	0004791397	231	22	Corner of Washington Boulevard and Whittier Street
	0004791397	231	23	Presbyterian Church, corner of Washington Boulevard and Sarah Street
	0004791397	231	24	4100 Cote Brilliante Avenue
	0004791397	231	25	Public School Educational Museum, 3640 North Market Street
	0004791397	231	26	[address not provided] A truck parked on the street is marked "T.J. Smith 4352 Clay[ton] St. Louis."
	0004791397	231	27	Lucky Street
	0004791397	231	28	Lucky Street, for sale sign
	0004791397	231	29	4200 Washington Boulevard

	0004791397	231	30	Baptist Church, 2500 N. Grand Boulevard
	0004791397	231	31	Corner of Laclede Avenue and Boyle Avenue
	0004791397	231	32	Corner of Grand Avenue and Montgomery Street
	0004791397	231	33	3900 block of Evans Avenue